



METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING CONCURRENT, COORDINATED COMMUNICATIONS ON SEPARATELY MANAGED NETWORKS.

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Response to Claim Objections:

(AMENDED)

1. A method for establishing a plurality of data sharing connections in a data communication service among a plurality of users who are concurrently communicating on a first communication service, each user respectively associated with one member of a plurality of user accounts, said data communication service distinct from the first communication service, and the method comprising the steps of:

- a) associating a session record with at least two user accounts, each user account identifying one member of the plurality of users communicating with one another on said first communication service, the user account selected from the group consisting of permanent and temporary user accounts,
- b) identifying said session record for at least one data sharing connection between a software process acting in behalf of a terminal device on said data communication service and a session manager, the association based upon an account identifier provided through said software process and corresponding to at least one user of the terminal, thereby establishing the data sharing connections for the at least one software process,
- c) associating the session record with information to be conveyed across said data communication service to the at least one terminal device,
- d) sending the information over the at least one data sharing connection, each connection associated with said session record,

whereby a plurality of users will receive the information sent by at least one user over the data communication service while they remain connected to each other on the first communication service.

(AMENDED)

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the data communication service is a television narrowcast service transmitting signals for display on a television a-over a digital network selected from the group consisting of a plurality of cable networks, satellite television networks, and low power wireless television networks.